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By: **Delegate C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Towing - Persons with a Disability**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the towing of a vehicle lawfully displaying a special  
4 registration plate for a person with a disability, a parking placard for a person  
5 with a disability, or a temporary parking placard for a person with a disability  
6 under certain circumstances; providing that a local ordinance regulating  
7 parking may not authorize the towing of a vehicle lawfully displaying special  
8 registration plates or a parking placard issued for a person with a disability  
9 unless the vehicle is an abandoned vehicle under certain provisions of law;  
10 exempting a vehicle lawfully displaying special registration plates or a parking  
11 placard issued for a person with a disability from provisions of law authorizing  
12 the towing of certain vehicles from parking lots in Baltimore City and Baltimore  
13 County; and generally relating to the towing of a vehicle displaying a special  
14 registration plate for a person with a disability, a parking placard for a person  
15 with a disability, or a temporary parking placard for a person with a disability.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article - Transportation  
18 Section 13-616(g) (2) and (3) and 21-10A-01  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article - Transportation  
23 Section 13-616.1(f)(4) and 13-616.2(e)(4)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
27 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article - Transportation**

2 13-616.

3 (g) (2) The person for whom special registration plates are issued under this  
4 section or under a similar provision of any other state or country:

5 (i) 1. Except as provided in items (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph,  
6 may park for unlimited periods in parking zones restricted as to the length of parking  
7 time permitted; [and]

8 2. Is not required to pay any parking meter fees of this State  
9 or of any political subdivision of this State where parking meters do not meet the  
10 Americans with Disabilities Act; AND

11 3. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER TITLE 25, SUBTITLE 2 OF  
12 THIS ARTICLE, IS NOT SUBJECT TO STATE OR LOCAL PROVISIONS AUTHORIZING THE  
13 TOWING OF A VEHICLE;

14 (ii) May park in a parking space equipped with a parking meter  
15 only for:

16 1. Except as provided in item (ii)2 of this paragraph, twice  
17 the maximum time period permitted on the parking meter but not to exceed a  
18 maximum of 4 hours; and

19 2. If the parking meter permits parking for more than 4  
20 hours, the period permitted on the parking meter; and

21 (iii) Subject to the posted time restriction specified for this parking  
22 zone, may park in a designated zone for the handicapped established at any  
23 State-owned airport.

24 (3) (I) The provisions of this subsection supersede any local ordinance,  
25 except that they do not apply:

26 [(i)] 1. To zones where stopping, standing, or parking is  
27 prohibited to all vehicles;

28 [(ii)] 2. To zones that are reserved for special types of vehicles; or

29 [(iii)] 3. Where there is a local ordinance that prohibits parking  
30 during heavy traffic periods in morning, afternoon, or evening rush hours, or where  
31 parking clearly would present a traffic hazard.

32 (II) UNLESS THE VEHICLE IS AN ABANDONED VEHICLE UNDER  
33 TITLE 25, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE, A LOCAL ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING  
34 MAY NOT AUTHORIZE THE TOWING OF THE VEHICLE IF IT IS LAWFULLY DISPLAYING:

35 1. A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE ISSUED UNDER THIS  
36 SECTION;

